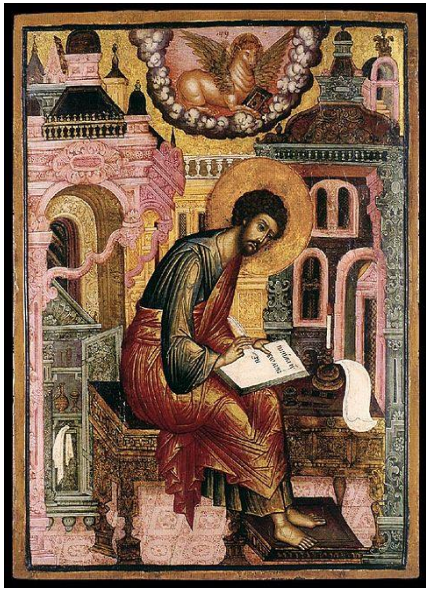


WOOLHAMPTON PARISH
'THE GOD WHO SPEAKS' – YEAR OF THE BIBLE
BRIEF GUIDE TO BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
GOSPEL OF LUKE



Luke accompanied Paul on many of his journeys, and wrote two volumes, not only an account of Jesus' ministry but also a record of the first expansion of the Christian community. His Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles share the same interests, and sophisticated style and vocabulary.

His prefaces show that Luke moves in a grander world than the other Gospel writers, a business world of bankers, creditors and swindlers. So Luke warns repeatedly of the dangers of wealth and considers especially the needs of the poor, the outcasts and oppressed.

LUKE is writing for the Gentiles around the Roman world, and stresses that

Jesus came to save all peoples, men and women, Jews and Gentiles.

He is also eager to show that **Rome and Christianity can live together in harmony.** He presents a **Jesus, who is full of compassion, the final messenger of God,** in the tradition of the prophets, full of the Spirit of God. Like Matthew, Luke follows the pattern of Mark, but adds more material about Jesus' teachings, particularly on **prayer, poverty, and perseverance.** Some of the material is drawn from a source he shares with Matthew, some is unique to this Gospel. His parables are particularly full of insight, painting lively and complex characters who do the right thing for the wrong reason, and vividly express their joys and worries.

(from *The Bible – A Reader's Guide*, by Henry Wansborough)

For Christmas, read chapters 1 & 2 of Luke's Gospel for his account of the birth and infancy of Jesus.

For previous issues visit www.douaiparish.org.uk, or contact the Parish Office.